

Subsurface Wastewater

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Subsurface Wastewater Program exists to minimize risk to the public from health, environmental, and safety-related hazards associated with malfunctioning subsurface waste-water disposal systems and to minimize the probability of early failure of newly installed systems.

Current Status:

Annual program activity:

- ❑ Annual Income \$560,000;
- ❑ Annual Expenses \$550,000;
- ❑ 13,000 Internal Permits;
- ❑ 11,000 Subsurface Permits;
- ❑ 200 Record Searches;
- ❑ Support & Assistance;
- ❑ 350 Local Plumbing Inspectors;
- ❑ 325 System Inspectors;
- ❑ 280 Licensed Site Evaluators;
- ❑ 200 Certified System Installers;
- ❑ Plan & Project Review;
- ❑ 100 First Time Variances;
- ❑ 300 Replacement Variances;
- ❑ 20 Engineered Systems;
- ❑ 15 Product Approvals;
- ❑ 130 Licensed Establishments.



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Program Goals:

The following goals relate to subsurface wastewater disposal systems.

- ❑ Improve the design, permitting, installation, and inspection process;
- ❑ Maintain a state-of-the-art set of design and installation standards;
- ❑ Assist municipalities with the administration of the Rules, and correction of malfunctioning systems;
- ❑ Provide training for local plumbing inspectors, site evaluators, system installers and system inspectors;
- ❑ Answer questions raised by the public and others promptly.

Priority Populations:

Program activities impact all Maine citizens utilizing subsurface wastewater disposal methods; currently estimated at 375,000. Specific groups that interact with the Program include local plumbing inspectors, local health officers, licensed site evaluators, system installers, and system inspectors.

Program Activities:

- ❑ Promulgating and updating on an annual basis minimum State Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules;
- ❑ Maintaining copies of internal plumbing and subsurface wastewater disposal system permits issued since 1974 and conducting record searches when requested;
- ❑ Licensing individuals as site evaluators and designers of subsurface waste water disposal systems;
- ❑ Providing administrative and technical support to all local plumbing inspectors;
- ❑ Appointing local plumbing inspectors in the unorganized territories and issuing internal and subsurface wastewater disposal permits when no one has been appointed;
- ❑ Conducting training for Local Plumbing Inspectors, Licensed Site Evaluators, System Installers, and System Inspectors;
- ❑ Conducting voluntary certification programs for system installers and system inspectors;
- ❑ Reviewing plans for engineered subsurface wastewater disposal systems and first-time and replacement system variance requests that exceed the authority of the municipal officials;
- ❑ Reviewing new products and processes for inclusion in the Rules;
- ❑ Reviewing plans for mausoleums, crypts and cemeteries;
- ❑ Reviewing new public swimming pool plans.

Funding Source:

- ❑ The program is supported entirely by Dedicated Revenues, receiving 25% of the permit fee collected by the municipalities.

Budget: \$550,000 (SFY 07)

Staff Count: 7